

En Route Severe Weather - Benefits

Almost half of delays and cancellations experienced across the NAS are due to disruptions from en route severe weather and our inability to predict its location, movement, and severity. Today's forecasts are accurate less than a third of the time, meaning many restrictions and cancellations are mistimed or done for improper locations. Collaboration on plans and more precise identification of flights that would be impacted by severe weather will result in a relaxation and removal of miles-in-trail (MIT) volume restrictions, and improved re-routing/MIT assignment for those aircraft affected. Studies have shown that up to 40% of the delays and cancellations may be recoverable, but the actual percentages that will be achieved through OEP actions are uncertain. Estimates indicate the savings that can be achieved through the planned collaboration may be about half a million minutes per year, or approximately 7.5% of the delay during the severe weather season.